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Repairs close Corps' Turner Gulch boat launch parking lot

(Boise, Idaho,) -- The Turner Gulch parking lot and boat launching ramp on the Lucky Peak reservoir will be closed for approximately three weeks so the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can replace the parking lot and a portion of the ramp, according to an agency recreation official.

"We're very excited about the work that is going on. We were originally going to replace portions of the old parking lot. After further consideration and planning, we have increased the scope of work to include the entire parking lot and a portion of the concrete ramp," said Senior Park Ranger Joyce Dunning. "The parking lot has undergone several patching jobs since it was new nearly 40 years ago. Even though another extensive patching job and pavement overlay would have given us several more years of use, eventually a full replacement would have been in order."

Recreation managers carefully considered impacts to the using visitors before deciding on the more complete repairs.

"We recognize this work will inconvenience some of the recreating public that uses the popular Turner Gulch area. The Corps and its contractors will try to keep that period as brief as possible. Our visitors have been asking for these improvements. Weather permitting, we plan to have the Turner Gulch recreation area back in full service by mid-October. We believe the more extensive work effort will prove to be a more effective use of taxpayer dollars in the long run," said Dunning.

Barclay Bay facilities are also getting improvements. The boat ramp there is not accessible at this time of year due to low water, but when the work is finished, visitors will find additional single-vehicle parking and lighted parking areas.

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The only boat-launching ramp at Lucky Peak that will be accessible over the next few weeks is at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation location at Spring Shores Marina until work is finished at Turner Gulch.

For more information call the Corps' Lucky Peak office at (208) 343-0671.

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